

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 26, 2003**

MEMBERS

PRESENT

Orlando Alcorido, Jr.
Mary Briden
Jim Critchley
Doug DeSanti
Kay Lewis
Marilyn Price
Jerry Stein
Donald Uhles
Gary Woods

MEMBERS

ABSENT

Gary Smith
Bill White

GUESTS

Janine Anderson
John Gallagher
Barbara Glickman-Williams
Randy Perkins

BEMS STAFF

Ed Armijo
Judi Crume
Victor Dominguez
Robin Jarvis
Charles Kramer
Peggy Lahren
Larry Lorenzen
Dona Markley
Susan Nicolas
Candy Taff

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kay Lewis called the regular meeting of the Education Committee to order at 9:06 a.m.
A quorum was present.

II. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mary Briden and seconded by Doug DeSanti to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

III. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Donald Uhles, and seconded by Gary Woods, to approve the minutes from May 16, 2003, as presented. Motion carried.

IV. DHS REPORT/INFORMATION

Ed Armijo, newly appointed as Ambulance and Regional Services Administrator by the Bureau of EMS, spoke on Bureau changes. We now have three administrators supervising three sections.

1. Investigations: Susan Nicolas
2. Certification for Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff: Robin Clark
3. Policy and Procedure: Dona Markley

Also: Suzy Baulch supervises EMS for Children, Trauma and Injury Prevention.
In the near future, a Rules Analyst position will be filled.

For EMT questions the public is to call 1-800-200-8523. The caller will be transferred to Lynn Snyder, Carol Baca or Rosie Miranda for Phoenix, Gail Barrett for Tucson, or Linda Barreras for Flagstaff. To schedule exams, the contact is the Regional Certification Manager, Robin Clark.

Ed Armijo is over Ambulance CON and Rates, and the four regions. A new CON and Rates manager will soon be hired to handle CON rates and audits. Victor Dominguez is over the Central and Northern regions and Chuck Kramer is over the Southern and Western regions. Victor and Chuck will act as liaisons to the Regional Councils and handle ambulance registrations as well as base hospital training program certification.

Victor introduced Robin Jarvis, the new Regional EMS Coordinator for the Central Region and announced that another Coordinator, Tim Singleton, has been hired and would be starting soon.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kay Lewis reported on a meeting in Columbus, Ohio for National Registry in August. The meeting had four focus groups comprised of individuals from all over the US discussing computer adaptive testing for written exams at the basic and advanced levels, in a highly secured environment with reasonable turnaround of results to the state agencies. The Registry has been surveying the EMS population and is investigating working with testing agencies such as those who test for nursing and other health care groups. The concerns are costs, availability of testing and accommodation of large groups. An alternative proposed was that any college or university or any agency that has the ability to provide this kind of secure testing environment could negotiate directly with the Registry and be able to set up the process. Fees were also discussed. This process would be for all levels and there will be many future meetings regarding this matter. There is no estimated date for implementation at this time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Status of the Bureau Doing NREMT ALS Written Exam Concurrent with NREMT Basic Exams -

Victor Dominguez reported that due to the reorganization, he is no longer involved in certification and will not be going to the testing sites. The Registry will not send the ALS exams to proctors of BLS exams; there has to be a National Registry Representative present to administer the ALS exam. One-on-one tests are not economically feasible. Arizona ALS testing is usually a closed process and therefore, the test is not always available in state, forcing applicants to go out of state.

B. Validation of EMT Training Program Success Using NR Scores From First Test Attempt -

Kay had asked at the last meeting that the Committee come to this meeting with some thoughts about how to assess training program effectiveness using 1st attempt Registry test results. Also a program is to be subject to audits in terms of success and retention of students. Doug DeSanti noted that it is believed that between 60% and 62% of applicants on a national average pass on the first attempt at the basic level. Kay asked for suggestions for an alternative for assessing EMT training program effectiveness. Discussion ensued. Victor will contact the National Registry and request a report on first time pass rates and pass rates on additional attempts in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs. It was stated that the programs should not be evaluated solely on a number basis but also on surrounding criteria.

C. Rules Change Package and Status –

Ed Armijo informed the Committee that it is anticipated that on November 4, 2003, we will have the new rules package approved, and if so, we would start moving people into the new rules on January 4, 2004. There will be flexibility in bringing people in under the new rules. Forms and processes will be changing. There will be training workshops. Notification of workshops will be sent by e-mail, web site and mailouts.

Kay Lewis noted that there was not a reference in her copy of the revised rules as to the reading assessment or physical agility required by the EMT-Basic prior to entering a class. Kay also asked a question regarding extensions for taking the refresher course for recertification, noting the proposed rules only cover extensions for personal or family illness or military service, and do not address medical illness. (This was clarified in an updated version of the proposed rules.) Discussion ensued and Victor stated he found reference in the policies that it is up to the program regarding the reading assessment. Ed stated that the EMT applicant must pass the skills set. Members agreed.

Dona Markley expounded on plan to move into new rules implementation.

D. Status of Article 8 –

Dona Markley explained that the language of the exempt rules would be cleaned up to ensure that it mirrors the other changes. Primary issues are adding the training component that was in Article 6, into the immunization, and making sure that the special skills for basics are added into the exempt rules. Discussion took place and comments were offered i.e., extensions for recertification due to special circumstances.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Expanded Scope of Practice and Expanded Role of EMTs -

Members were given packets about the expanded scope of practice update and the recommendations. Kay shared additional information with members. A committee worked on the expanded role of a paramedic working in an emergency department. The 'treat and refer' part of the issue was tabled until the Executive Committee makes a decision and surveys are conducted. Some physicians were very warm to the idea and some were not. The Committee will not be handling the surveys. A curriculum is being considered for those who wish to work in the emergency department. Handouts were given and reviewed regarding drug administration. One change has been made: Medics will not be inserting arterial lines. A handout on content of medical legal considerations was distributed. A handout on Arizona Critical Care Paramedic was also distributed.

B. 24-hour HAZMAT First Responder Course for EMT-Basics –

Chief Price recommended that a 32-hr. HAZMAT training course be a pre-requisite to the EMT-Basic course. Discussion pro and con took place. It was decided that it would not be feasible and prudent at this time to make this a prerequisite to EMT-B initial provider curriculum.

C. eACLS Course; Initial and Continuing Education for ALS –

Kay Lewis shared positive comments regarding this course. Members supported a brief demonstration at the next meeting. Kay will schedule.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No Items

IX. MEMBERS' EDUCATIONAL and INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judi Crume welcomed the Committee to our new offices.

Judi announced that the Bureau would be hosting the EMS Futures Summit in December. A Staff Assistance Planning Day will take place on November 14, 2003. The second day is the Arizona EMS Futures Summit, to be held on December 5, 2003, at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be an activity the night before for EMS people. Information will be forthcoming.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for November 21, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be in conference room 540A.

Proposed agenda:

1. eACLS program demo (discussion/decision) K. Lewis
2. Recommendations for curriculum, training and supervision of paramedics working in an emergency department. (discussion/decision) K. Lewis
3. Assessing training program effectiveness (discussion) K. Lewis
4. Status of new Rules implementation (discussion) D. Markley

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Critchley and seconded by Gary Woods. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Approved by Education Committee on 11/21/03